

Tyson's Committee and in October 2012, Ms. Lippa received the Marge Bleiweis Peace Builder Award. In addition, under her leadership, the Fairfax County Planning Commission was recognized with the American Planning Association's 2011 Daniel Burnham Award for its work on the Tysons Plan.

Despite the demands of serving on the Planning Commission, Ms. Lippa still found the time to remain involved and active in the community. For 28 years, she has been a member of Zonta International, holding numerous leadership positions and in 2012 was named as the Zonta Club of Fairfax 2011 Volunteer of the Year and honored by the Inter-Service Club Council of the City of Fairfax. From 1994 to 2008, Ms. Lippa continued her work to improve educational opportunities while serving as a member of the Northern Virginia Community College Business Advisory Curriculum Committee.

For generations to come, the benefits of Ms. Lippa's dedication, expertise, and commitment will be felt by millions of residents and will pave the way for the continued prosperity of the entire region. On behalf of the residents, businesses, and visitors to Fairfax County, I thank and commend her for a job exceedingly well done.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Lippa on her retirement and thanking her for 35 years of service to Fairfax County and our community.

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, since World War II, the United States and the Republic of China, commonly referred to as Taiwan, have shared a close friendship. I'm pleased to recognize the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China on October 10, 2013.

Taiwan is a shining example of democracy in the Asia Pacific region and promotes shared values with the United States, including respect for human rights, a market-based economy, and freedom. Taiwan is a very important trading partner and our economies are closely linked. Last year, Taiwan was our eleventh largest trading partner overall, was our seventh largest agricultural export market, and shared more than 63 billion dollars in bilateral trade.

Taiwan's economy is a dynamic force in the Asia Pacific region and it is in both of our interests to continue strengthening our trade and investment ties. We should continue to expand trade through a Bilateral Investment Agreement, a Free Trade Agreement, and an expanded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Taiwan is a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and if admitted to the TPP, a great U.S. ally such as Taiwan would be an even more important economic player.

Taiwan has recognized that joining the TPP would be the best way to diversify its market and improve competitiveness in the region. I encourage my colleagues to support Taiwan's inclusion into TPP, which would further

strengthen U.S.-Taiwan trade and investment dialogues and would likely increase other TPP member countries' willingness in engaging Taiwan in vigorous and ambitious trade negotiations. The United States should actively seek ways with its TPP member nations to include Taiwan in the partnership, allowing Taiwan to play an even more important role in the regional economic integration in the years to come.

Finally, I encourage more high-level diplomatic visits between our two countries to increase bilateral interaction on matters such as security, trade, investment, cultural exchange, and education. Just as our economic partnership continues to improve, Taiwan is one of our most valuable allies and is a nation we can truly depend on. That is why I introduced the Taiwan Policy Act with my colleagues, the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ALBIO SIREs, JOHN CARTER, and GERALD CONNOLLY, to strengthen our political, security, economic, and trade relations. I was proud to see this legislation pass in the Foreign Affairs Committee in August and am looking forward to its swift passage here in the House soon.

I wish a very happy Double Ten Day to the people of Taiwan. While we are already close partners, it is my firm belief that our best days are still ahead.

CONGRATULATING OTSEGO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce for being named the winner of The Business Council of New York State's Chamber of the Year award. As the Representative of New York's 19th Congressional District, I have the great honor of working with the Otsego County Chamber and know first-hand the good work they do for Upstate New York.

Each year, The Business Council Chamber of the Year Award is given to a Chamber of Commerce that displays a positive commitment to pro-business activities within their community and state. In awarding this honor to the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce, The Business Council of New York has recognized Executive Director Barbara Ann Heegan's leadership and the entire Otsego County Chamber's work on behalf of the business community. Their commitment to quality programs and services, fiscal responsibility and membership growth makes them an example for Chambers of Commerce across New York and across the Nation.

In these tough economic times, it is more important than ever that we have strong organizations dedicated to economic growth. Located in Oneonta, N.Y., the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce works to improve the overall business climate in Otsego County and create an atmosphere which attracts investment by building a positive, forward-thinking business community through partnerships with government, individuals and private institutions.

Of particular interest to me was the Otsego County Chamber's partnership with local edu-

cation institutions. These efforts included coordinating with the SUNY Cooperative Ed Initiative to create a college intern program, developing a partnership with Broome Community College to provide courses to county residents, expanding networking opportunities for community members, and providing seminars and educational programs. At a time where unemployment is hovering around 8 percent but around 4 million jobs remain unfilled in the United States, it is more vital that job creators and educators work together to build the workforce our country needs to remain competitive on the international front.

It is an honor to represent Otsego County in the United States Congress and I am proud to stand today in recognition of the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to continuing to work with Executive Director Heegan and her award-winning membership at the Otsego County Chamber to grow the economy and bring jobs to Upstate New York.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM WON KYUN HWANG AS PRESIDENT OF THE WASH- INGTON CHAPTER OF THE NA- TIONAL UNIFICATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. William Won-Kyun Hwang for his appointment as President of the Washington Chapter of the 16th Session of the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC) for the Republic of Korea. The Council was established in 1980 under the Constitution of the Republic of South Korea to advise the Korean President on policies that promote a democratic peaceful reunification of Korea, including the views of Koreans living domestically and abroad.

A successful Northern Virginia businessman, Mr. Hwang is a resident of Oakton in the 11th Congressional District, and he has been an active member of the Fairfax County community. He is the president of three companies involved in trade and property development, and he serves on the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board.

He served from 2008 to 2010 as President of the Korean-American Association of Virginia, which provides a multitude of services to help Korean immigrants adjust to life in America. In addition to being a past chairman of the Board of Directors for the KAAV, Mr. Hwang also has chaired the 14th San Francisco Korean American Olympics Washington Team in 2007, the Vocational School of the Korean American Association of Northern Virginia, the Korean American Business Association, and the Korean American Sports Association of Greater Washington. He was the 2006 delegate for the Washington, D.C., and Seoul City Sisterhood, and Seoul City, along with Dan Kook University of Korea, recognized him as an honorary ambassador in 2008.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I am pleased to have worked with KAAV and other Korean-American organizations on promoting cultural awareness and addressing issues within the community, and I